

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore 415 Washington Avenue Bayfield, WI 54814 715-779-3397 www.nps.gov/apis

National Park Service News Release

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Contact: Neil Howk

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Launches Every Kid in a Park Pass
Fourth Graders and their Families Eligible for Free Access to Federal Lands and Waters
Nationwide

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore is proud to help launch the Every Kid in a Park program as part of President Obama's commitment to protect our nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them.

As of September 1, fourth graders nationwide can visit the new <u>Every Kid in a Park website</u> to obtain a pass that provides free access to students and their families to all federally managed lands and waters – including national parks, forests and wildlife refuges. The pass is valid through August 31, 2016 and grants free entry for fourth graders and three accompanying adults (or an entire car for drive-in parks) at more than 2,000 federally-managed sites.

Superintendent Bob Krumenaker said, "There's a lot to discover here, and we're excited to welcome fourth graders and their families to Apostle Islands National Lakeshore throughout the school year. We hope that our young visitors have fun in the great outdoors and develop a lifelong connection to our nation's land, water, wildlife, and history."

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore provides special experiences for kids, including a Junior Ranger program that introduces visitors to elements of Ojibwe language and culture.

Leading up to the 100th birthday of the National Park Service in 2016, President Obama launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative earlier this year as a call to action to get all children to experience America's unparalleled outdoors. Today, more than 80 percent of American families live in urban areas, and many lack easy access to safe outdoor spaces. At the same time, youth spend more hours than ever in front of screens instead of outside.

Fourth graders: log onto the website www.everykidinapark.gov and complete a fun educational activity in order to obtain and print your pass. You can also trade in your paper pass for an official card at participating federal sites nationwide. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore does not charge an entrance fee, but does carry a supply of the official access cards to distribute to qualifying students.

Educators and community leaders: use the website to access educational activities, field trip options, and the ability to print passes for your classrooms.

Parents: find additional links for more information on planning trips to nearby public lands on the Every Kid in a Park website.

Every Kid in a Park is designed to inspire the next generation to discover all that our nation's public lands and waters have to offer, including opportunities to be active, spend time with friends and family, serve as living classrooms to build critical skills, and discover our nation's heritage.

The Every Kid in a Park program is an Administration-wide effort offered in partnership with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Fourth graders can get their official passes at many National Park Service sites as well as lands managed by other federal agencies.

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore's headquarters visitor center in Bayfield, Wisconsin is open daily from 8 am to 4:30 pm through September 30. After October 1, headquarters offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm, except for federal holidays.

For more information, please visit www.everykidinapark.gov, and follow the program on Twitter @everykidinapark, on Facebook, on Instagram and Youtube. For additional information on Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, please visit www.nps.gov/apis.

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